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(54) Title: **NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS FOR AGED PETS**

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein are compositions to meet the needs of aged pets and other animals. Pet foods, pet treats and pet supplements with anti-aging effects are disclosed whose compositions include the R- α -lipoic acid in the amount of .10 grams to 1.5 grams and L-carnitine in the amount of 0.10 grams to 3 grams in addition to the usual composition. Optionally, coenzyme Q can be added in an amount of at least 1 mg/day. Optionally, creatine can be added in an amount of at least 0.2 grams/day. These additional components fight age-related declines in mitochondrial function, which result in less energy and other signs of aging.

NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS FOR AGED PETS

Technical Field

The present invention is generally directed to pet food and dietary supplements. More specifically, the present invention relates to the addition of the combination of lipoic acid and carnitine to these compositions. Optional additional ingredients are coenzyme Q and creatine.

Background Art

Many pet foods contain nutrition for a specific stage of the pet's life. Stages of a pet's life are broken down as follows: kitten or puppy is up to 1 year, adult cat or dog is one to six years, and a senior cat or dog is over six years old. However, different animals age at different rates. Cats are often considered older or senior at seven to eight years of age and geriatric or very old at 10 to 12 years. Dogs often are considered older between 7.5 and 13.5 years of age. Dogs often are considered older when they reach half of their life expectancy, which corresponds to about five years for larger dogs and seven years for smaller dogs.

Today, pets are living markedly longer because of improved treatments for infections and parasites, improved diagnostics, and better medical technology. Improved nutrition also has played a role, particularly the life-stage concept that recognizes different nutritional needs at different ages.

Nutrition is particularly important in aging pets and in managing the risk factors of cancer, heart/cardiac, kidney and liver disease which are prominent causes of non-accidental death in dogs and cats. In addition, older pets become less active and have reduced lean body mass. For these two reasons, pets require less energy from their food. Aging pets also have a reduced immune response and glucose tolerance.

The goals of pet foods for older animals are maintaining optimal nutrition, managing risk factors, managing diseases, and improving quality and longevity of life. So far, that has meant reducing protein, fat, energy sources, phosphorus and sodium and increasing water and fiber. However, very old dogs (greater than 12 years) may require somewhat more fat and energy sources.

An example of a formulation for older dogs is the Science Diet® Canine Senior® product that provides fewer calories, more fiber and lower phosphorus. The dry formula has 350 kcal/cup. It has the following nutrient contents per 100 kcal: protein 4.8g, fat 2.8g, carbohydrate 16.5g, crude fiber 0.8 g, calcium 155 mg, phosphorus 144 mg, sodium 45 mg, potassium 163 mg, chloride 141 mg and magnesium 30 mg. It also contains the following

vitamins: choline chloride, vitamin A, vitamin D3, vitamin E, niacin, thiamine, calcium pantothenate, pyridoxine hydrochloride, riboflavin, folic acid, biotin and vitamin B12.

A canned turkey Canine Senior® formula provides about 393 kcal per 418-gram can. It has the following nutrient contents per 100 kcal: protein 4.9g, fat 3.2g, carbohydrate 15.8g, crude fiber 0.5 g, calcium 159 mg, phosphorus 138 mg, sodium 43 mg, potassium 181 mg, chloride 149 mg and magnesium 23 mg. It also contains the following vitamins: D-activated animal sterol, vitamin E, niacin, thiamine, calcium pantothenate, pyridoxine hydrochloride, riboflavin, folic acid, biotin and vitamin B12.

The Science Diet Feline Senior™ canned fish formula offers lower energy and higher fiber than pet food for younger cats. It provides 150 kcal per 156-gram can. It has the following nutrient contents per 100 kcal: protein 9.5g, fat 5.8g, carbohydrate 5.3g, crude fiber 1.1 g, calcium 219 mg, phosphorus 177 mg, sodium 115 mg, potassium 198 mg, chloride 177 mg, magnesium 17 mg, and taurine 146 mg. It also contains the following vitamins: vitamin A, D-activated animal sterol, vitamin E, niacin, thiamine, calcium pantothenate, pyridoxine hydrochloride, riboflavin, folic acid, biotin and vitamin B12.

Recent research has suggested that taking sufficient quantities of certain substances rejuvenates aged mitochondria, the failing powerhouses of cell metabolism. Numerous lines of evidence suggest that the organelles of cellular respiration, the mitochondria, degenerate with cellular aging (Shigenaga et al. PNAS 91, 10771, 1994). Unfortunately, the study of mitochondrial aging has been hampered because mitochondria isolated from older cells and host animals are fragile and heterogeneous. Hence the interpretation of any results is suspect as about half the mitochondria lyse during isolation. Recently a new method was developed for studying mitochondria in hepatocytes from old animals that avoids this problem (Hagen et al. PNAS 94, 3064-3069, 1997). Mitochondria from older animals are not only more fragile, but have about half the level of cardiolipin, a key lipid unique to mitochondria, without which they can not maintain a high membrane potential. Furthermore, Hagen et al. showed that in hepatocytes from older animals, the mitochondria are lower in membrane potential and leak more toxic oxidants.

Carnitine and carnitine derivatives have been used as metabolites in animal husbandry and for human diet and therapy. U.S. Pat. No. 5,362,753 (Method of increasing the hatchability of eggs by feeding hens carnitine); U.S. Pat. No. 4,687,782 (Nutritional composition for enhancing skeletal muscle adaptation to exercise training); U.S. Pat. No. 5,030,458 (Method for preventing diet-induced carnitine deficiency in domesticated dogs and cats); U.S. Pat. No. 5,030,657 (L-carnitine supplemented catfish diet); U.S. Pat. No.

4,343,816 (Pharmaceutical composition comprising an acyl-carnitine, for treating peripheral vascular diseases); U.S. Pat. No. 5,560,928 (Nutritional and/or dietary composition and method of using the same); U.S. Pat. No. 5,504,072 (Enteral nutritional composition having balanced amino acid profile); U.S. Pat. No. 5,391,550 (Compositions of matter and methods for increasing intracellular ATP levels and physical performance levels and for increasing the rate of wound repair); U.S. Pat. No. 5,240,961 (Method of treating reduced insulin-like growth factor and bone loss associated with aging); etc.

Similarly, mitochondrially active antioxidants including vitamins (especially C, E, B and D), glutathione, N-acetyl cysteine, lipoic acid, etc., have been used variously as human nutritional supplements and in dietary prophylaxis and therapy. For example, applications of lipoic acid have included U.S. Pat. No. 5,607,980 (Topical compositions having improved skin); U.S. Pat. No. 5,472,698 (Composition for enhancing lipid production in skin); U.S. Pat. No. 5,292,538 (Improved sustained energy and anabolic composition and method of making); U.S. Pat. No. 5,536,645 (Nutritive medium for the culture of microorganisms); U.S. Pat. No. 5,326,699 (Serum-free medium for culturing animal cells); etc.

Coenzyme Q or ubiquinone has been used as a medicine or food supplement. For example, uses of ubiquinone include U.S. Patent No. 6,090,414 (Method and Composition to Reduce Cancer Incidence); U.S. Patent No. 6,086,190 (Food Supplements); U.S. Patent No. 6,080,788 (Composition for Improvement of Cellular Nutrition and Mitochondrial Energetics); U.S. Patent No. 6,080,388 (Cosmetic and Dermatological Sunscreen Formulations); U.S. Patent No. 6,063,432 (Fruit Healthbar Formulation); U.S. Patent No. 6,048,846 (Compositions Used in Human Treatment); U.S. Patent No. 6,048,566 (Non-Alcoholic Beverage and Process of Making), etc.

Creatine has enjoyed increasing use as a nutritional additive by athletes. Other uses of creatine are discussed in U.S. Patent No. 6,093,746 (Therapeutic Agents for Asthma); U.S. Patent No. 6,071,962 (Oxa acids and Related Compounds for Treating Skin Conditions); U.S. Patent No. 6,060,512 (Method of Using Hydroxycarboxylic Acids or Related Compounds for treating skin changes associated with intrinsic and extrinsic aging); U.S. Patent No. 6,013,290 (Assemblage of nutrient beverages and regimen for enhancing convenience, instruction and compliance with exercise supplementation); U.S. Patent No. 6,008,253 (Use of 3-guanidino propionic acid to increase endurance, stamina and exercise capacity); U.S. Patent No. 6,008,252 (Method for increasing muscle mass); etc.

What is needed is an improved nutritional pet food which truly is formulated to meet the needs of older pets. A survey of pet food Web sites uncovered no formula providing

carnitine or lipoic acid. Such a pet food would also provide the latest in anti-aging compounds that have been shown to increase energy and stamina, with fewer calories.

Disclosure of Invention

5 It is an object of the present invention to improve pet diets, preferably in pets with deficient mitochondrial metabolism. It is a further object to provide a combination of an effective amount of a suitable antioxidant and an effective amount of a carnitine in a wide variety of foods and food supplements. It is a further object of the present invention to improve the diet of dogs, cats, horses, fish, birds and other animals.

10 A preferred combination of the present invention includes carnitine in the amount of 0.12 grams to 3 grams. A preferred form of carnitine is acetyl-carnitine (ALC).

A preferred combination of the present invention includes the antioxidant as R- α -lipoic acid in the amount of about 0.12 grams to about 1.5 grams.

15 Optionally, coenzyme Q and/or creatine can be added. Preferably, coenzyme Q is coenzyme Q10 and is provided in the amount of at least 1 mg/day. Preferably, creatine is provided in the amount of at least 0.2 grams/day.

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

20 Many pet foods lack four important ingredients: carnitine, lipoic acid, coenzyme Q and creatine. These constituents are essential to discourage aging and provide more energy to older animals and others with unhealthy mitochondria. Recent research has shown precisely how these compounds work to promote healthy mitochondria, which are the energy powerhouses of the cells. Mitochondria are responsible for the production of ATP and are present in relatively high numbers in essentially all cells of the body. The mitochondrial
25 electron transport system consumes approximately 85% of the oxygen utilized by a cell. Cellular energy deficits caused by declines in mitochondrial function can impair normal cellular activities and compromise the cell's ability to adapt to various physiological stresses, a major factor in aging. Because of this high oxygen use, the mitochondria also have the highest production of oxidants.

30 Oxidants damage mitochondria in three important ways. Oxidants damage DNA, lipids and protein. The intra-mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) have levels of oxidative damage which are at least 10-fold higher than those of nuclear DNA, which correlates with the 17-fold higher evolutionary mutation rate in mtDNA compared with nuclear DNA. mtDNA

oxidation accumulates as a function of age, which has been shown in several species, including humans. This may lead to dysfunctional mitochondria. Mitochondrial protein damage is also age-related and may decrease energy production and increase oxidant production. Oxidative damage to mitochondrial lipids contributes to the decreasing fluidity of cell membranes with age. The lipid cardiolipin is a major component of the mitochondrial membrane and facilitates the activities of key mitochondrial inner membrane enzymes. The aged, damaged mitochondrial membrane cannot contain the oxidants, nor can it maintain as high a polarity as the younger membrane.

Fatty acid oxidation is an important energy source for many tissues. The activity of carnitine-acetyl-carnitine exchange across the inner mitochondrial membrane is of great importance. The activity of this exchange reaction is decreased significantly with age, which may be due to a lower intra-mitochondrial pool of carnitine. L-carnitine or acyl-L-carnitine (ALC) has been shown to slow or reverse this age-related dysfunction. It also can reverse the age-related decrease in cardiolipin, age-associated decrease in mtDNA transcription, and decreased membrane potential. By itself, L-carnitine or ALC cannot correct the problem of excess oxidants. In fact, it was recently reported that carnitine supplementation increased oxidant production by 30% and decreased cell antioxidants markedly. Thus, ALC administration in older individuals may contribute to greater oxidative stress.

For the aged mitochondrial engines to run on all cylinders, both carnitine and lipoic acid are essential. Lipoic acid is an antioxidant. And R- α -lipoic acid is a mitochondrial enzyme which can help reverse the decline in metabolism seen with age. R- α -lipoic acid supplementation has been shown to 1) reverse the age-related decrease in oxygen consumption, 2) restore the age-related decline in mitochondrial membrane potential, 3) triple the ambulatory activity of aged rats, 4) significantly lower the age-related increase in oxidants, and 5) restore glutathione and ascorbic acid levels to youthful levels.

Clearly, both carnitine and lipoic acid contribute to restoration of age-related mitochondria function and metabolic activity in older animals. This contributes to improvements in energy, general health, mental acuity, immune system function, fur appearance and muscle mass.

Carnitine is available in many forms and all those are included in the invention of the combination of carnitine and thioctic acid. Carnitine and carnitine derivatives have been used as metabolites in animal husbandry and for human diet and therapy. U.S. Pat. No. 5,362,753 (Method of increasing the hatchability of eggs by feeding hens carnitine); U.S. Pat. No.

4,687,782 (Nutritional composition for enhancing skeletal muscle adaptation to exercise training); U.S. Pat. No. 5,030,458 (Method for preventing diet-induced carnitine deficiency in domesticated dogs and cats); U.S. Pat. No. 5,030,657 (L-carnitine supplemented catfish diet); U.S. Pat. No. 4,343,816 (Pharmaceutical composition comprising an acyl-carnitine, for
5 treating peripheral vascular diseases); U.S. Pat. No. 5,560,928 (Nutritional and/or dietary composition and method of using the same); U.S. Pat. No. 5,504,072 (Enteral nutritional composition having balanced amino acid profile); U.S. Pat. No. 5,391,550 (Compositions of matter and methods for increasing intracellular ATP levels and physical performance levels and for increasing the rate of wound repair); U.S. Pat. No. 5,240,961 (Method of treating
10 reduced insulin-like growth factor and bone loss associated with aging); etc. Most preferably, the carnitine is acetyl-L-carnitine.

A daily dosage of carnitine is about 5 mg to 8 g. Preferably the daily dose of carnitine is 25-1,000 mg. More preferably, the daily dose of carnitine is about 40-700 mg. Most preferably, the daily dose of carnitine is at least about 50 milligrams (0.05 g) per day.

15 By lipoic acid or thioctic acid is meant a mitochondrially active antioxidant which physiologically comprises a metabolically reactive thiol group. Mitochondrially active antioxidants including vitamins (especially C, E, B and D), glutathione, N-acetyl cysteine (NAC), lipoic acid, their derivatives, etc., have been used variously as human nutritional supplements and in dietary prophylaxis and therapy. For example, applications of lipoic acid
20 have included U.S. Pat. No. 5,607,980 (Topical compositions having improved skin); U.S. Pat. No. 5,472,698 (Composition for enhancing lipid production in skin); U.S. Pat. No. 5,292,538 (Improved sustained energy and anabolic composition and method of making); U.S. Pat. No. 5,536,645 (Nutritive medium for the culture of microorganisms); U.S. Pat. No. 5,326,699 (Serum-free medium for culturing animal cells); etc. Preferably, the compound is
25 at least one of glutathione, N-acetyl cysteine and lipoic acid. Most preferably, the compound is the R-enantiomeric form of lipoic acid. Metabolites of lipoic acid have been found to have a longer half life and also are suitable for supplementation.

A daily dosage of lipoic acid is about 5 mg to 8 g. Preferably the daily dose of lipoic acid is 10-1,000 mg. More preferably, the daily dose of lipoic acid is about 30-700 mg. Most
30 preferably, the daily dose of lipoic acid is at least about 40 milligrams (0.04 g) per day.

Q10 is an important supplement. In groups of males and females ranging from 90-106 years, the prevalence of inadequate Q10 status was 40% for women and 24% for men. In women, the decreased Q10 was associated with impaired natural killer cell effectiveness ($p < 0.05$), indicating decreased ability to fight infections and quickly eliminate individual

cancer cells as they first develop. Q10 also appears to block programmed cell death, or apoptosis, through its action in the mitochondria (Kagan T et al, Ann NY Acad Sci 887:31-47, 1999). Furthermore, Q10 in its reduced form of ubiquinol-10 which is normally present in the blood, appears to protect human lymphocytes from oxidative damage to DNA
5 (Tomasetti et al, Free Radic Biol Med 27 (9-10):1027-32, Nov 1999). No important adverse effects have been reported from experiments using daily supplements of up to 200 mg Q10 for 6-12 months and 100 mg daily for up to 6 y. Overvad K et al. Eur J Clin Nutr 53(10):764-70, 1999.

Q10 also may contribute to anti-aging effect by protecting against atherosclerosis
10 which also results from oxidative stress. Pedersen HS, et al. Biofactors 9(2-4): 319-23, 1999). Q10 also improves the tolerance of the senescent myocardium to aerobic and ischemic stress in human atrial tissue and rats. Q10 corrected the age-specific diminished recovery of function in older hearts so that older hearts recovered function at a similar rate to younger ones (Rosenfeldt FL et al. Biofactors 9(2-4): 291-9, 1999).

15 As for the supplemental dose of Q10, older Finnish men obtained benefit from 100 mg/day. A woman deficient in Q10 received 150 mg/kg and rapidly improved (Sobriera et al. Neurology 48:1283-43, 1997). Q10 has also been used at dose of about 200 mg/day to help improve heart function in persons with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Based on this information, a supplemental dosage for pets ranges from about 0.1 mg/day to about 100
20 mg/day, depending on pet weight. Preferably, the Q10 dose is about 10 mg/day, depending on weight.

Because creatine intake is often decreased in older individuals, creatine supplementation should be considered. Many athletes have taken doses of creatine up to 75 grams a day for years without known adverse effects, aside from weight gain, often attributed
25 to increased muscle mass. Creatine may be most beneficial when ingested with glucose, which tends to increase creatine absorption. Often athletes ingest loading doses of 20 g/day divided into four doses for 5 days to one week. Then they take a maintenance dose of 5 g/day. Benefit in one week in older individuals (40-73) has also been seen from a 20 g/day dose, in the form of increased skeletal muscle strength and endurance. It has been reported
30 that 1.5 g – 25 g/day are safe for a period of at least a year. A suitable dosage range for pets is about 0.15 g/day to 25 g/day, preferably 0.3-2.5 grams per day and most preferably about 0.5 g/day, depending on pet weight. Creatine is available as a salt, monohydrate, phosphate and citrate.

The doses recited herein are adjustable compared to the animal's weight.

In addition to the compositions mentioned above and the examples given below, animal snacks, "treats", and supplements also benefit from the addition of a carnitine and a form of thioctic acid. The carnitine, thioctic acid, and optionally coenzyme Q and/or creatine can be added to bulk powders or dried or canned pet food. The combination of carnitine, thioctic acid, and optionally coenzyme Q and/or creatine can be mixed with any cooked or uncooked food.

The combination of carnitine, thioctic acid, and optionally coenzyme Q and/or creatine is provided in pet formulations, dried or canned or as a supplement for addition thereto. Animals expected to benefit from the composition include, but are not limited to, dogs, cats, horses, birds and fish.

The formulations and/or content of these products are on the product label or are otherwise publicly available.

Additional nutrients are important in older animals, including calcium, vitamin D, Vitamins B12, folic acid, B6, niacin, vitamins C or E, iron and zinc. Many of these nutrients have been found to be deficient in the diets of elders and should be appropriately supplemented along with carnitine, thioctic acid, and optionally coenzyme Q and/or creatine.

The inventive combination(s) also are conveniently provided in pill or capsule form. A preferred formulation provides lipoic acid and carnitine, optionally in combination with coenzyme Q10 and or creatine, in a timed release formulation to provide a steady supply of the nutrients to the mitochondria which work 24 hours a day. One method of accomplishing timed release is chemically combining the micronutrient(s) with other molecules, which generally slows the process of making the micronutrient(s) available. Also the use of different salts of the micronutrients with different dissolution rates provides for gradual and appropriate release of the product.

Besides these methods, two other basic systems are used to control release for oral administration: coating a core comprising the micronutrient(s) and excipients (coated system) and incorporating the micronutrient(s) into a matrix (matrix system). Coated systems involve the preparation of product-loaded cores and coating the cores with release rate-retarding materials. Product-loaded cores can be formulated as microspheres, granules, pellets or core tablets. There are many known core preparation methods, including, but not limited to, 1) producing granules by top spray fluidized bed granulation, or by solution/suspension/powdering layering by Wurster coating, 2) producing spherical granules or pellets by extrusion-spheronization, rotary processing, and melt pelletization; 3) producing core tablets

by compression and coating with a release rate-retarding material; 4) producing microspheres by emulsification and spray-drying.

Matrix systems embed the micronutrient in a slowly disintegrating or non-disintegrating matrix. Rate of release is controlled by the erosion of the matrix and/or by the diffusion of the micronutrient(s) through the matrix. In general, the active product substance, excipients and the release rate-retarding materials are mixed and then processed into matrix pellets or tablets. Matrix pellets can be formed by granulation, spheronization using cellulosic materials, or by melt pelletization using release retardant materials, while matrix tablets are prepared by compression in a tablet press. An example of a cellulosic material is hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose as the release rate retarding material.

Coated or matrix pellets can be filled into capsules or compression tableted. The rate of release can be further modified by blending coated or matrix pellets with different release rates of the same product to obtain the desired product release profile. Pellets containing any of lipoic acid, carnitine, coenzyme Q10 or creatine can be blended to form a combination product.

Convenient assays for the requisite bioactivities are described above or in the references cited herein. For example, cardiolipin content is readily assayed as referenced in Guan, Z. Z., Soderberg, M., Sindelar, P., and Edlund, C. Content and Fatty Acid Composition of Cardiolipin in the Brain of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease. *Neurochem. Int.* 25: 295-300, 1994 and oxidant production (DCFH) may be assayed as described by LeBel, C. P., Ischiropoulos, H., and Bondy, S. C. Evaluation of the Probe 2',7'-Dichlorofluorescein as an Indicator of Reactive Oxygen Species Formation and Oxidative Stress. *Chem. Res. Toxicol.* 5: 227-231, 1992. Assays for parameters of aging such as host activity and behavior such as grooming, sexual activity, dominance, coat condition, wound repair, including molecular lesions, muscle strength and tone, kidney appearance and function, etc. are similarly well known in the art.

Example 1

The Eukanuba Senior Maintenance (IAMS) is formulated to help nutritionally stabilize the senior dog's digestive system and support a healthy intestinal environment with fiber from beet pulp and fructo-oligosaccharides. The Eukanuba Senior Maintenance also has increased levels of antioxidants to help maintain the immune system in senior dogs. The senior maintenance diet was formulated with 50% more antioxidants than their Adult Formulas, from sources such as vitamin E and Beta-Carotene, which is believed to help

maintain the immune system of the senior dog. This is intended for small breeds over 8 years of age, medium breeds over 7 years of age, large breeds over 6 years of age, and giant breeds over 5 years of age. Its ingredients include chicken by-product meal, corn meal, ground grain sorghum, ground whole grain barley, chicken, fish meal, dried beet pulp (sugar removed),
5 chicken fat (preserved with mixed tocopherols, a source of vitamin E, and citric acid), dried egg product, brewers dried yeast, vitamins and minerals. It provides 4,219 kcal/kg or 350 kcal/cup in the following distribution: protein 27%, fat 28%, and carbohydrate 45%.

Guaranteed Analysis:

Nutrient	(percent)
Crude Protein min.	26.0%
Crude Fat min.	10.0%
Crude Fiber max.	4.0%
Moisture max.	10.0%
Omega- 6 Fatty Acids min.	1.75%
Omega- 3 Fatty Acids min.	0.25%

10 To improve the nutritional value for senior dogs, at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine must be added daily.

Example 2

15 The Iams Senior Formula for Cats meets most of the special nutritional needs of cats over 7 years of age. As a cat ages, he can benefit from highly digestible premium nutrition more than ever. Iams Senior Formula provides essential protein levels to help maintain muscle mass and mobility. And with 30% less fat than Iams Original Formula, the cat has energy to stay active without excess fat for weight gain. The key ingredient of the Iams
20 Senior Cat Food is chicken protein to maintain muscle tone, body systems, skin, and coat. Ingredients include chicken by-product meal, chicken, rice flour, corn meal, dried beet pulp (sugar removed), dried egg product, natural chicken flavor, fish meal, potassium chloride, brewers dried yeast, dl-methionine, calcium carbonate, salt, choline chloride, vitamin E supplement, zinc oxide, chicken fat (preserved with mixed tocopherols, a source of vitamin
25 E, and citric acid), vitamins and minerals. This formulation provides 4,108 kcal/kg, or 373 kcal/cup from the following sources: protein 32%, fat 34%, and carbohydrate 34%.

Guaranteed Analysis:

Nutrient	(percent)
Crude Protein min	32.0%
Crude Fat min	14.0%

Crude Fat max	16.5%
Crude Fiber max	3.0%
Moisture max	10.0%
Ash max	6.75%
Magnesium max	0.099%
Taurine min	0.15%
Vitamin E not less than	200 IU/kg

To properly supply nutrients to older cats, we supplement the above formula with at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least about 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams daily, depending on weight.

Example 3

Kasco® Lite Dog Food is a low-protein, low-fat, low-calorie formula for maintenance for less active and older dogs. It contains the following ingredients: ground yellow corn, wheat middlings, poultry by-product meal, meat and bone meal, ground wheat, beet pulp, poultry fat (preserved with mixed tocopherols), dicalcium phosphate, poultry digest, salt, calcium carbonate, brewers dried yeast, choline chloride, zinc proteinate, vitamin E supplement, ascorbic acid, zinc oxide, manganese proteinate, copper proteinate, extract of rosemary, manganous oxide, copper sulfate, vitamin A acetate, niacin supplement, calcium pantothenate, vitamin B12, vitamin D3, pyridoxine hydrochloride, riboflavin, thiamin mononitrate, calcium iodate, biotin, sodium selenite, and folic acid. Kasco Lite has 322 kcal per standard cup. Its guaranteed analysis is crude protein (min) 18%, crude fat (min) 6%, crude fiber (max) 5%, and moisture (max) 11%.

To formulate this product specifically for older dogs, we supplement the above formula with at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least about 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine per day.

Example 4

Heinz provides a blend of ingredients called the Custom Fitness™ formula of Cycle Senior. It contains rice and oatmeal that eases digestion for the sensitive systems of older dogs. Other specifications include anti-oxidant vitamins A, C, and E plus beta carotene, for a strong immune system and clear vision; and no added salt; and limited calcium, phosphorus, and fat. Ingredients of the dry formula include corn, soybean hulls, chicken by-product meal, feeding oat meal, brewers rice, whole wheat, animal fat (BHA used as a preservative), animal

digest, condensed grain fermentation solubles, bone phosphate, calcium carbonate, potassium chloride, L-lysine hydrochloride, L-threonine, D,L-methionine, choline chloride, minerals (ferrous sulfate, zinc oxide, manganous oxide, copper sulfate, calcium iodate, sodium selenite), vitamins (vitamin E supplement, niacin, D-calcium pantothenate, riboflavin supplement, pyridoxine hydrochloride, thiamin mononitrate, vitamin A supplement, folic acid, biotin, vitamin B12 supplement, vitamin D3 supplement), antioxidant blend (ascorbic acid, beta carotene, marigold extract), BHA (preservative), tocopherols (preservative), citric acid (preservative), rosemary extract (preservative).

10 Dry Formula Guaranteed Analysis

	As Fed	Dry Weight
Protein.....	19.50%	21.31%
Sodium.....	0.08%	0.09%
Crude Fat.....	Not less than 9.00%	
Crude Fiber.....	Not more than 4.00%	
Moisture.....	Not more than 12.00%	
Calcium.....	Not less than 0.60%	
Phosphorous.....	Not less than 0.50%	
Sodium.....	Not more than 0.15%	
Calories per cup.....	350 Calories	

The canned formula has the following ingredients: water sufficient for processing, chicken, wheat flour, oatmeal, turkey, wheat gluten, brewer's rice, meat by-products, soybean oil, guar gum, vitamins (vitamin E supplement, niacin, D-calcium pantothenate, riboflavin supplement, pyridoxine hydrochloride, thiamin mononitrate, vitamin A supplement, folic acid, biotin, vitamin B12 supplement, vitamin D3 supplement), sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium chloride, titanium dioxide, calcium sulfate, choline chloride, minerals (ferrous sulfate, zinc oxide, manganous oxide, copper sulfate, calcium iodate, sodium selenite), DL-methionine, carrageenan, FD&C yellow 6, iron oxide, antioxidant blend (ascorbic acid, beta carotene, marigold extract), FD&C yellow 5.

Canned Formula Guaranteed Analysis

	As Fed	Dry Weight
Protein.....	5.13%	26.50%
Sodium.....	0.15%	0.77%
Crude Fat.....	Not less than 3.0%	
Crude Fiber.....	Not more than 5.0%	
Moisture.....	Not more than 82.0%	
Calories per cup.....	288 Calories	

To convert these products to support the metabolism of active seniors, the following formulation additions are made: at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine per day.

Example 5

5 Mera Dog Sensitive is a well-tolerated maintenance formula that is suitable for the senior and less active dog. Main ingredients are turkey and rice, which are highly digestible and provide protein with reduced calories. Specifically, ingredients include rice (60%), turkey meat meal (20%), poultry fat, beet fiber, linseed, brewers yeast, minerals, poultry meat hydrolysate, DL-methionine, L-lysine. Additives include vitamin A 15,000 I.E./kg, vitamin
10 D3 1,500 I.E./kg, vitamin E 120 mg/kg, and copper 19 mg/kg. Guaranteed Analysis is crude protein 21.0%, crude fat 9.0%, crude fiber 2.5%, crude ash 7.0 %, calcium 1.2%, phosphorus 1.0%, and sodium 0.4%.

To convert this product to support the metabolism of active seniors, the following formulation additions are made: at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-
15 carnitine, and optionally at least 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine per day.

NuFood was created specifically for pet owners concerned about giving their dogs top quality nutrition and only the best ingredients. NuFood is made with 100% pure chicken meat (no by-products) and is prepared to provide a pure, tasty and highly digestible meal. There are no gels, dyes or artificial flavors; and all ingredients are approved for human
20 consumption. The main ingredients are chicken meat, corn, breadcrumbs, and water. Ingredients include 100% pure chicken meat, corn gluten meal, toasted wheat crumbs, propylene glycol, corn syrup solids, wheat flour, corn flour, glucono delta lactone, salt, citric acid, sodium nitrite, seasoning, and water sufficient for processing.

To convert this product to support the metabolism of active seniors, the following
25 formula additions are made: at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine per day.

The Science Diet Canine Senior product described in the Background can benefit from supplementation with at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine per day.

30 The Canine Senior formula described in the Background can benefit from supplementation with at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine per day.

The Science Diet Feline Senior canned fish formula (as well as other Science Diet cat foods) can benefit from supplementation with at least 0.1 grams of R- α -lipoic acid, at least 0.1 grams of L-carnitine, and optionally at least 1 mg of Q10 and/or at least 0.2 grams of creatine per day..

5

All publications and patent applications cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication or patent application were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference. Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of this invention that certain changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.

10

We claim:

1. A pet food with anti-aging properties, the food comprising

a) an effective amount of a suitable antioxidant;

b) an effective amount of a carnitine;

c) carbohydrate;

d) protein;

e) fat; and

e) fiber.

2. A pet treat with anti-aging properties, the treat comprising

a) an effective amount of a suitable antioxidant;

b) an effective amount of a carnitine;

c) at least one energy source; and

d) flavors.

3. A pet supplement with anti-aging properties, the supplement comprising

a) an effective amount of a suitable antioxidant; and

b) an effective amount of a carnitine;.

4. The food, treat or supplement of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the carnitine is ALC and the effective amount is about 0.1 grams to 3 grams.

5. The food, treat or supplement of claim 1, 2 or 3 in which the antioxidant is R- α -lipoic acid in the amount of 0.1 grams to 1.5 grams.

6. The food, treat or supplement of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising coenzyme Q.

7. The food, treat or supplement of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising coenzyme Q10 at a dose of at least about 1 mg/day.

6. The food, treat or supplement of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising creatine.

7. The food, treat or supplement of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising creatine at a dose of at least about 0.2 grams/day.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
 PCT/US01/02713

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A23B 5/14

US CL : 426/ 541, 601, 656, 658, 805

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 426/ 541, 601, 656, 658, 805

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	GB 2300103 A (GILBERTSON & PAGE) 30 October 1996, see whole document.	1-6
Y	US 5,916,912 A (AMES et al.) 29 June 1999, see whole document.	5
Y	US 5989604 A (WOLF et al.) 23 November 1999, see whole document.	6-7
Y	US 4,599,232 A (BERTELLI) 08 July 1986, see whole document.	6-7
Y	US 4,883,672 A (SHUG et al.) 28 Novemebr 1989, see whole document.	1-5
Y	US 5,240,961 A (SHUG et al.) 31 August 1993, see whole document.	1-5



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/02713

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Y	WO 0000039 A (THE IAMS COMPANY) 06 January 2000, see whole document	1-5

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/02713

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

STN/CAS:multifile 'FOOD'.

EAST/USPT. JPO, EPO, DERWENT.

search terms: carnitine, creatine, coenzyme Q10, lipoic acid, pet food, dog, cat.

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(54) Title: **NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS FOR AGED PETS**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the addition of the combination of lipoic acids and carnitine to pet food and as dietary supplements in pet food.

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